



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

July – September 2023

FY24—Q1 Summary

The first quarter of the year was a busy one. It was spent working on several conservation plans for the Native Forages Initiative (NFI) and MDC's LCAP program. My last NFI contract was obligated at the end of September on the last day of the federal governments fiscal year, bringing my total to 10 NFI contracts for the program that ran for about a year. I was able to plan over 400 acres of native warm season grass plantings for grazing. Most of these will be established in spring of 2024 across three different counties (Dent, Texas, and Howell).

I also spent a majority of the quarter hosting my first summer intern. Her name was Krista Cockrum and she is a senior at Missouri State University and is pursuing a degree in Conservation and Wildlife Management. I enjoyed having her around and showing her what all goes into being a Farm Bill Biologist. I've included a picture of her below from when we conducted vegetation monitoring on the Marathon Pipeline. It was a hot couple days of trudging through brush, walking through johnson grass that towered over our heads, fighting off all the bugs and crawling under fences. There were a lot of undesirable species along the pipeline but we also saw several native plants such as milkweeds and blazing stars. We had a lot of fun and laughs while surveying the pipeline and enjoyed getting out of the office for this opportunity.



Outreach and Education

October 20-22 the Texas county MU Extension held their annual grazing school.

I presented on the benefits of native plants for grazing and wildlife and other practices that landowners can implement on their farms to benefit wildlife.

Conservation Planning

- 84 Landowner Contacts
- 13 Habitat Proposals & Conservation Plans
- 16 Site Visits
- 223.76 Acres Assessed

Lizzy Johnson
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- Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties -

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Cave Karst Workshop

In August I attended the Current River COA Karst Workshop where we learned about cave ecosystems in the Ozarks. We were also able to tour a cave in the Ozarks where we saw many salamanders, a few bats and some amazing cave formations.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

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July – September 2023



Picture 1, 2, & 5: *Liatris sp.* On roadside and Pipeline
Picture 3: *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush on roadside)
Picture 4: Bison on a landowners farm



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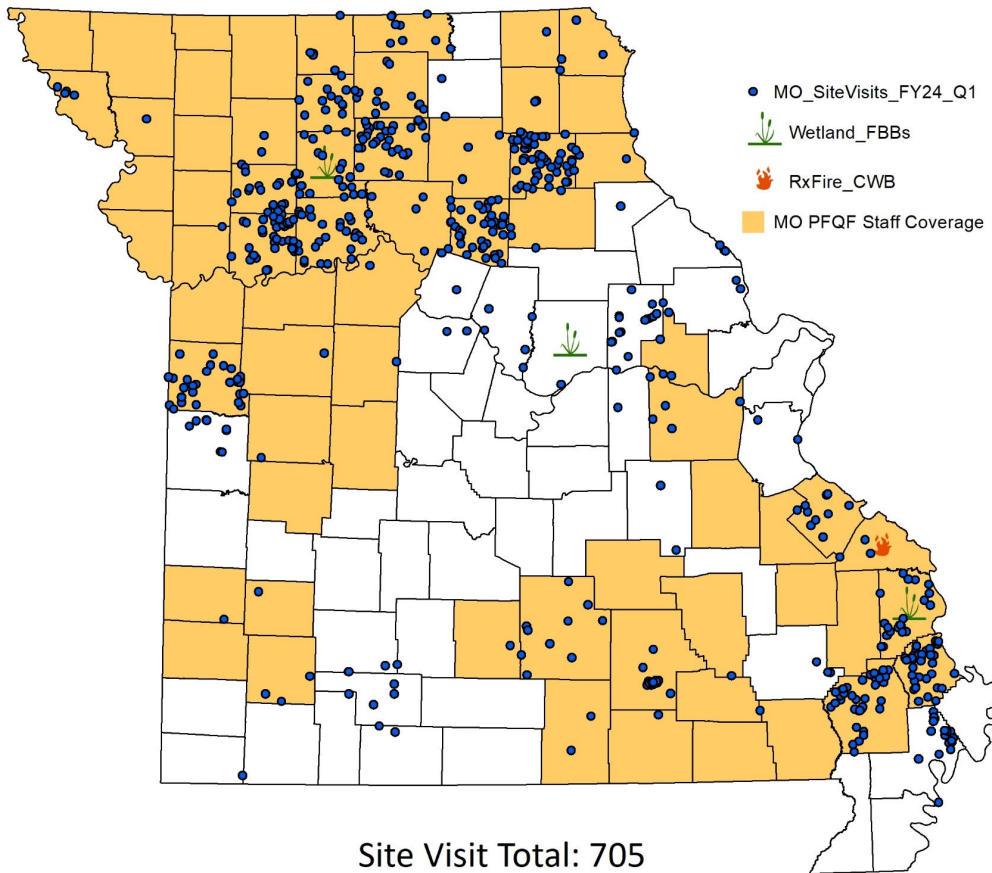
Quarterly Partners' Report



Lizzy Johnson - Howell, Texas, & Wright Counties

July – September 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT July 1, 2023 - Sept 30, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.

Updated 10/13/2023



Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**If anyone wishes to discuss habitat projects or knows others who are interested; please contact me at the information below.*

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Ray, Clinton, and Caldwell Counties

July– September 2023

First Quarter of FY24

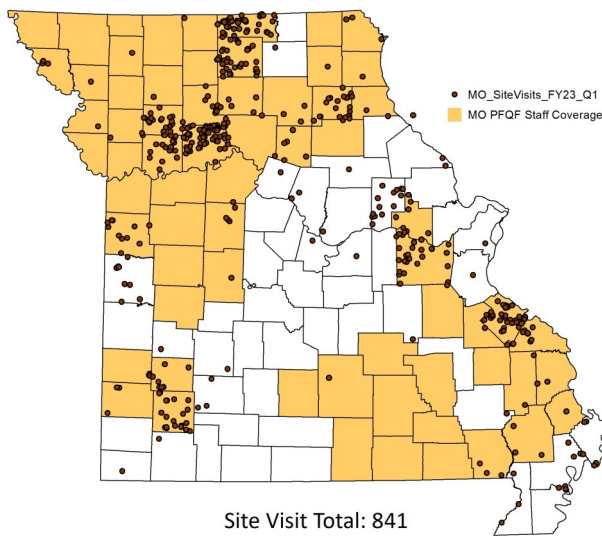
From July through September of 2023, our team had a total of 1189 landowner contacts and 657 site visits. 22,661.25 acres were impacted by the Quail Forever team through planning and assessment efforts!

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Team Outreach

- Outreach/Events: 24
- Outreach/Event Participants: 1950

**FY23 MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
July 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2022**



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.
Updated 10/24/2022



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Individual Stats

Landowner Contacts	80
Site Visits	59
Status Reviews/ Checkouts	52
Conservation Plans worked on	14
Practice Certifications	1
Total Acres Impacted	2143.43
Trainings/ events	4



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

July - September 2023

CRP

This quarter saw the end of CRP planning. Much of this quarter has been field visits for fiscal year 2024 expiring CRP as well as second year CRP planting checks. In comparison to last year's expiring checks, this year's expiring checks have shown a lot less woody invasion and invasive/noxious weeds within my core counties. The two year implementation checks that I have done to date have been about 50/50. Close to half of the checks I have done have been well established plots while the other half will need rechecked again in one year.

The rechecks of the newly planted plots is in large part due to invasion of sericea within the plot, fescue/brome invasion, and fox tail invasion. Recommendations to control these issues were given to landowners. This advise was well received by the landowners, and I was happy to hear questions from the landowners about different ways to improve or benefit their CRP.

EQIP

This quarter, I finished receiving EQIP applications from landowners submitted for this coming round of EQIP. This year I have seen a large rise in landowners who would like to begin rehabilitating their forested acres. Many landowners have applied for a Forest Management Plan through EQIP. While out on Landowner site visits this is something I recommended in order to be able to apply for cost share practices on forest acres in the coming years.

Planning for next quarter

This quarter I have been working on the planning for a series of landowner workshops. The first one will be next quarter in November. These workshops will be called "Let's Talk:" followed by the topic. The plan behind these workshops is to give landowners information on different cost share practices, as well as having a landowner who has completed these practices talk about their experiences with the practice, discuss their triumphs and failures, and talk about what they learned along the way.



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II



Quarterly Partners' Report

Logan Baum - Caldwell, Clinton, and Ray Counties

July - September 2023

Training and Outreach

This quarter, I was given the opportunity to finish my MDC prescribed fire training. I went down to the Southeast Regional office for MDC in Cape Girardeau and completed my level III training. With all three levels now complete, I am able to begin writing prescribed burn plans for landowners to be sent for approval.

Landowners within my core counties have been expressing interest in starting a prescribed burn association. I worked closely with these landowners as well as partners to put together a prescribed burn association interest meeting where we had a turnout of 19 landowners. I received help putting on the PBA interest meeting through locating a venue, flyer creation and distribution, equipment use, and drinks from our partners at NRCS, SWCD, and FSA. I also had multiple landowners contact me over the phone expressing interest to be added to the email list for future meetings and information. Some of our local partners who could not make the meeting due to rapid planning and a quick turn around time, US Fish and Wildlife, MDC, and NWTF gave their full support.



Richmond, MO PBA interest meeting

@MissouriQF





MissouriPFQF.org



Grazing Lands Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

July– September 2023

Position Update

As the summer of 2023 came to an end I assisted producers in preparing for the transition from their native warm season grasses to their cool season grass fields. I also helped any producer who was interested in signing up for the Native Forage Initiative go through the proper channels. The deadline for sign up for the Native Forage Initiative program for 2023 came to a close on August 31.

Getting Ready for Fall!

As we reach the end of summer and temperatures begin to drop there are steps producers can take to ensure their warm season grass fields make it through the colder months.

Native warm season grasses need time to rest before the first frost of the year. It is recommended that they get a minimum of 35 days of rest before that the average first frost date in their region. Missouri usually gets its first frost in mid to late October depending on where you reside in the state. This means warm season grasses need to begin their rest period during mid September. Producers can graze these grasses or cut them to the minimum grazing height before this rest period begins. Resting the grasses before the fall and winter allows the grass to store up carbohydrates in their roots. This will increase the grasses vitality and give it a boost when the next growing season starts the following spring to allow the grass to outcompete other non desirable plants.



The photo above is a stand of native warm season grass that has been resting since the beginning of September.

The photo below is a pasture of warm season grasses that is about to be grazed in mid August.



Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

Conservation Planning

- 29 Landowner Contacts
- 23 Site Visits
- Advised on >150 acres

Tanner Patton
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Grazing Lands Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

April – June 2023

Native Warm Season Grass in Dade County



As we approach colder months it is important to understand that quail need shelter to survive such harsh conditions. This photo shows an area on a farm where a producer used a technique called hack and squirt to kill trees without felling them. This reduced the cover of the above canopy and allowed dormant seed to germinate and create a thick understory which provides cover for wildlife.

Training/Meeting Type	Outcome
Annual Forages for Grazing Systems	This online training focused on grazing forages used in the NRCS 810 conservation practice.
New Employee Orientation	I attended the Pheasants and Quail Forever new employee orientation held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This opportunity allowed me to network with members of the national team and also gave me a better understanding of the many avenues our organization takes to improve and create new wildlife habitat, provide new opportunities for land access for outdoor recreation, and recruit new members to the outdoor enthusiast community.
Common Grassland Practice Checkout	This training focused on what to look for in the field when performing checks on common grassland practices used by producers through NRCS programs.
High Diversity Native Grass Pastures	This training focused on warm season native forages which can be used together to create high diversity native grasslands and how these forages benefit each other through the acquisition and sharing of nutrients deep in the soil.



@MissouriQF



Missouri Quail Forever



MissouriPFQF.org



Grazing Lands Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

April – June 2023

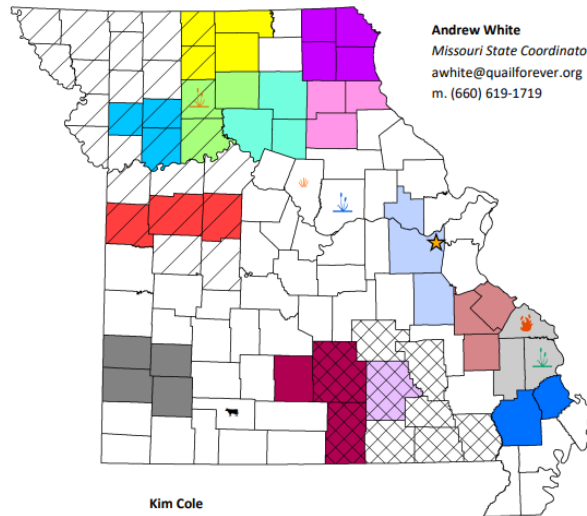
Looking Forward

- Attend the MFGC conference.
- Assist a producer who is interested in glade restoration and development on a large tract of his land.
- Attend my local QF chapter meetings and become a resource for them.
- Stay in touch with producers who I have existing relationships with and continue to assist them with any grazing related questions they may have.

PF/QF in Missouri Staff

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Scott, Stoddard
- Chad Doolen**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
Perry, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau
- Colby Mohler**
FBB II– Wetland Specialist
Northeast MO
- Emally Lear**
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II
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Jasper, Barton, Dade, Lawrence
- Haley Lockard**
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Cass, Johnson, Pettis
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Stationed in Shannon County
- Wes Buchheit**
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Statewide
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Shelby, Marion, Monroe
- VACANT**
Monarch RCPP CWB
- Habitat Specialists– Shaw Nature Reserve**
Dylan Jacobs, Crew Lead
Josiah Sutton, Ty Price, Phoebe Ellis, Crew



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- Katy Hulsey**
Habitat Partnership Specialist
- Donnamarie Duffin**
Missouri Monarch & Pollinator Coordinator
- Trevor Day**
Regional Representative - North MO
- Ayden Carey**
Regional Representative - South MO



For contact information and to learn more about us visit missouripf.org

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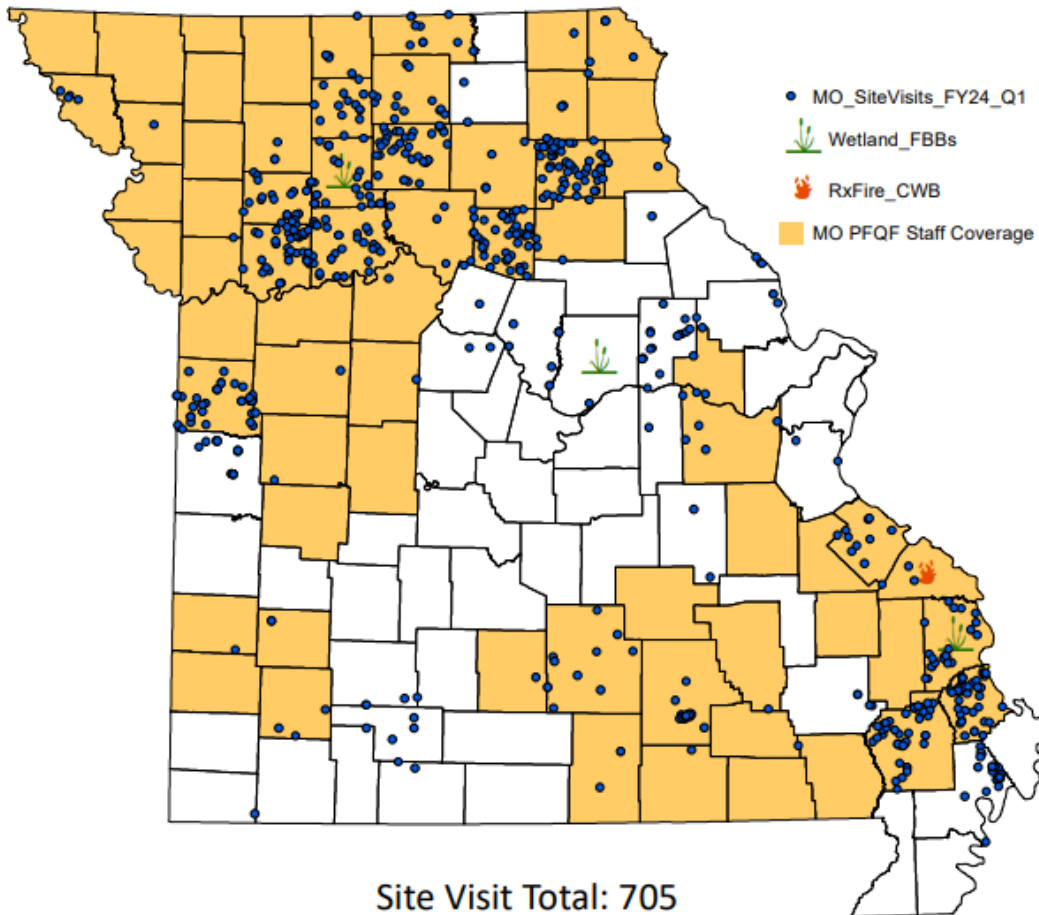
Coordinating Grazing Biologist Quarterly Partners' Report



Tanner Patton - Missouri

April – June 2023

MISSOURI PF/QF BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT July 1, 2023 - Sept 30, 2023



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Missouri Quail Forever

Quarterly Partners' Report



Trevor Dubinski - Randolph, Macon, & Chariton

July-September 2023

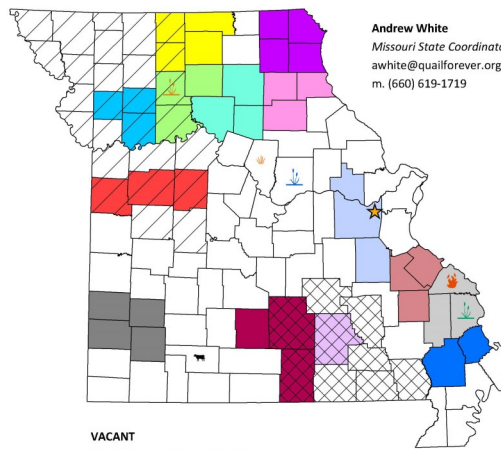
Introductions

Hello everyone! My name is Trevor Dubinski, and I am the new Farm Bill Biologist for Randolph, Macon, and Chariton counties. Being a native Missourian, I am excited to join the Missouri PFQF team and be able to put more wildlife habitat on the local landscapes. I graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in the Spring of 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conservation. While in school, I worked all over the state as a seasonal naturalist for the Missouri State Parks. In this role I spent a lot of time in caves, restoring grasslands and glades, and interpreting the natural resources to the public. When not working or in school, I enjoy spending my time in the outdoors fly fishing for smallmouth in the Ozarks, hunting, and bird watching. I have learned a lot in and out of the classroom these past four years, I look forward to applying what I have learned to this position and building off the great work that Courtney Nicks has started.

PF/QF in Missouri Staff

- Brad Pobst**
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Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Trevor Dubinski - Randolph, Macon, & Chariton

July-September 2023

Mid-Mo Uplanders Banquet

On September 22nd I was able to join the Mid-Mo Uplanders chapter of Quail Forever for their 10th annual banquet. While this being my first Quail Forever banquet, I was delighted to volunteer and join in on the fun of raising money for conservation. I was happy to meet many of the members and sponsors of the chapter banquet. I am eager for future banquets where I can volunteer and meet more Quail Forever members.

Creating habitat

Being a Farm Bill Biologist, I am looking forward to helping local landowners and producers create better habitat for wildlife. Joining the team this past September, I have a lot to learn and many to learn from. Visiting landowners has given me the opportunity to learn different strategies of creating more habitat in new ways. Each landowners has different goals for putting habitat on the ground and it is my job to assist in achieving that goal. I look forward to helping these landowners create habitat on the landscape.



Fruit of a Jack-in the-Pulpit on a Landowners property near Clark, MO

Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

- 6 Landowner Contacts
- 4 Site Visits
- 1 Conservation Plans Completed
- 19.17 Acres Impacted



Missouri Quail Forever Quarterly Partners' Report



Trevor Dubinski - Randolph, Macon, & Chariton

July-September 2023

Learning the Landscape

Starting this job going on about a month ago, I have been busy getting to learn the local landscape of north central Missouri. I look for any opportunity to go out with the Soil and Water Conservation District, Missouri Department of Conservation's PLCs, and other Farm Bill Biologists to familiarize myself with the local landscape. I have learned a lot so far and I continue to learn every day from my of-ficemates and partners.



Ted Seiler giving a tour of the Moberly medians along Highway 63



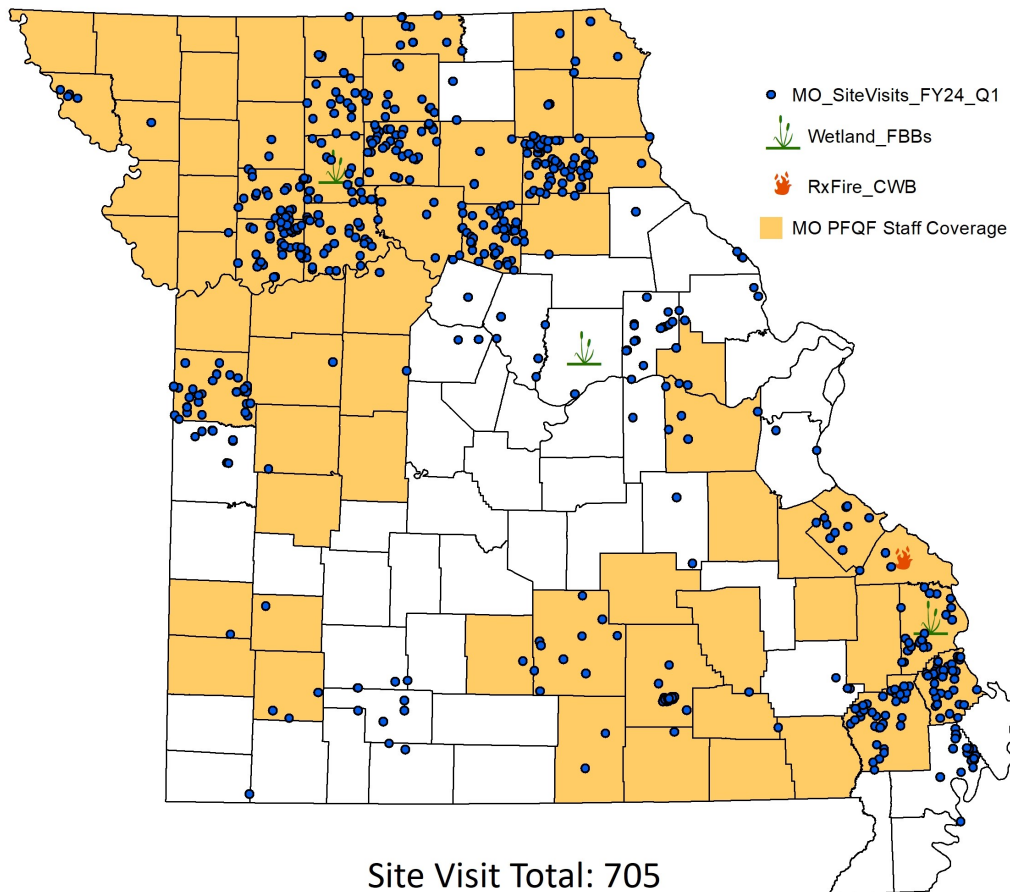
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Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



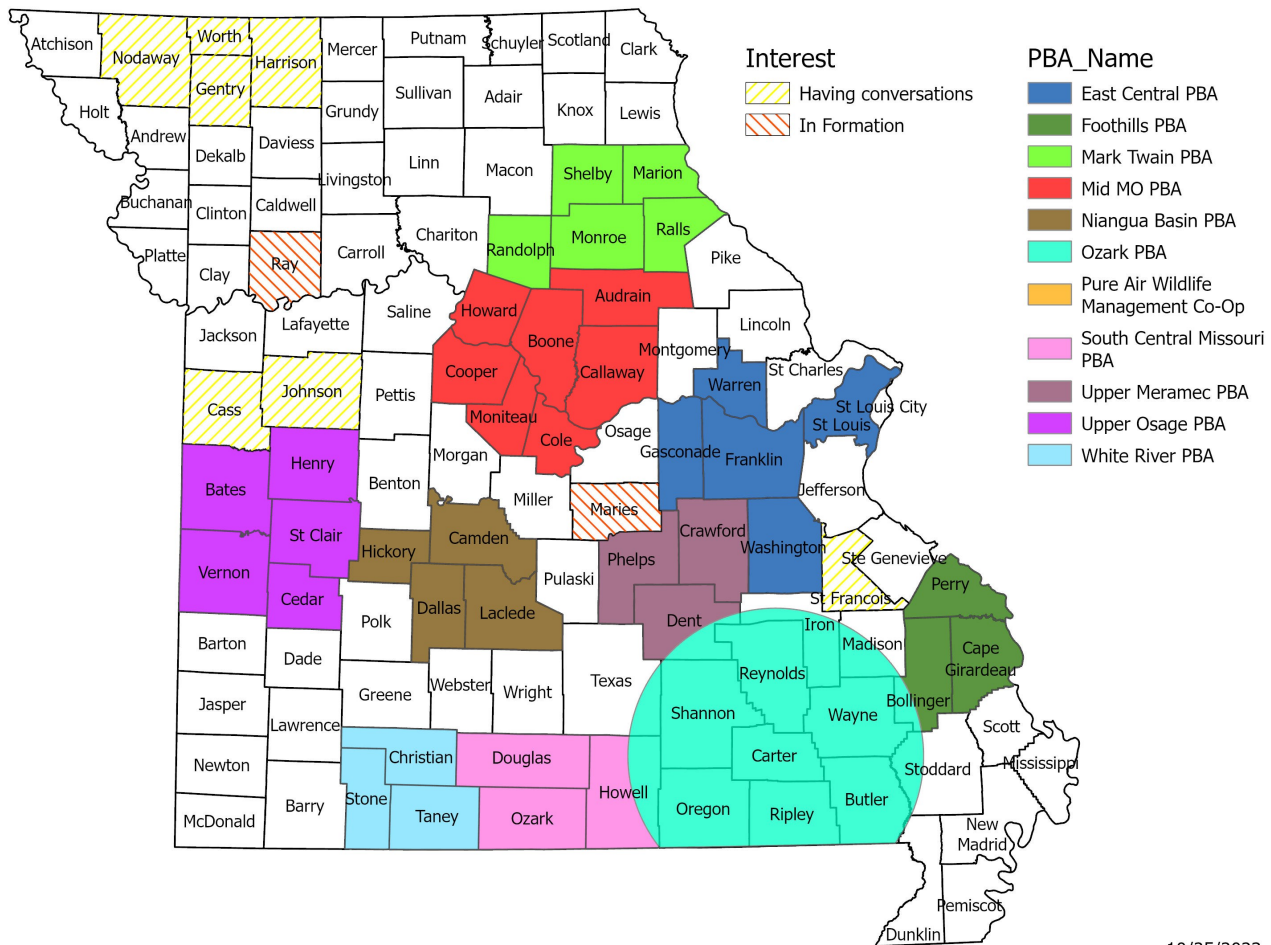
Wes Buchheit - Missouri

July - September 2023

Equipping PBA Growth

While several of the newer PBAs have been fundraising, applying for and receiving grant funds, and obtaining prescribed burn equipment, we have set the stage to “equip” PBAs in another manner. Mark Howell, Chair of the Missouri Prescribed Fire Council, and I have updated, organized, and uploaded PBA resources on the MPFC website including a PBA startup roadmap. The intent is to provide a path for any and all across Missouri to access and use these resources to pursue forming a PBA that suits their area. We anticipate more Missouri citizens and landowners to learn about PBAs as the November issue of the Missouri Conservationist features an article on the success and function of PBAs. Check out the [article](#) and the PBA resources at moprescribedfire.org/pba-resources.

Missouri Collaborative Burning



10/25/2023



Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

July - September 2023

Fall Burning for Bobwhites

By William Robinson, Missouri Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III and Chad Doolen, Missouri Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Much of North America's landscape has a historical relationship with fire, one that predates modern times and even European settlement of the continent. Fires played a role in shaping plant communities and wildlife habitat from one ocean to the other. Fires kept prairies relatively free of woody species and allowed wildflowers and grasses to thrive in woodlands. Over hundreds and thousands of years, plants and animals adapted to fire regimes where fires during the fall season were common occurrences (a site would have burned every 3 to 6 years on average). Seasonality and typically mild burn intensities fostered widespread and highly diverse plant and wildlife communities.

As Europeans settled North America, the presence of fire on the landscape began to change. Widespread fire suppression became common practice in the 1900s. Where fire remained on the landscape, it was no longer closely associated with fall. As a result, plant communities and habitat changed. On wooded landscapes, canopies and midstories began to close, which prevented light from reaching the ground layer and significantly reduced the presence of herbaceous vegetation. Woody vegetation expanded across what remained of the once vast prairies. As plant communities changed composition, so did their use by wildlife. Some wildlife would benefit from these changes, and other populations suffered. One population that suffers from a lack of fire is the northern bobwhite. Bobwhite quail rely on a diverse mix of native grasses



and wildflowers for nesting cover and brood rearing habitat. Plant diversity attracts a wide array of pollinators and invertebrates in the spring and summer months, which provide protein for growing quail chicks. The wildflowers also produce seeds that can be consumed later in the season. For example, rough-leaved sunflower, and many other native sunflower species, responds well to fire-managed areas and sets fruit late in the summer and early autumn.

Above: A fall burn to set back fescue and woody encroachment.

Prescribed fire can be used year-round to achieve different management objectives, however, fall burns can be especially effective for managing diverse, quail-beneficial habitat. Fall burns reduce woody encroachment, knock back cool-season grasses, and encourage native plant growth. In October and November, cool-season, sod-forming grasses like tall fescue and smooth brome are actively growing. Burning in the fall while woody species and undesirable cool-season grasses are growing will negatively impact those plants, and most will not recover before the first frost. Reducing the foothold of these undesirable species opens opportunities for native grasses and wildflowers to fill in during spring and summer. Prescribed fire in the fall allows native plants to thrive on a site, encouraging the species diversity and structural composition that benefits quail and many other wildlife!

Continued ->

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Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

July - September 2023

Fall Burning for Bobwhites, continued

Prescribed burning is an efficient and effective management tool. With knowledge of fire behavior and burn plans, we can use prescribe burning as a tool to manage farms, manipulate wildlife habitat, and restore natural communities. Prescribed burning is so effective that government agencies and non-governmental organizations, including Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, have staff dedicated to understanding the impacts of prescribed fire and expanding access and use.



Above: Fire consumed the fine ground fuels but didn't consume all the stems leaving structure and wildlife cover for winter.

After deciding to use fire as a tool, a manager needs to align their plan with their overall goals and objectives. Some goals will be short term, while others will be achieved over years. Natural community restoration and some habitat projects require long-term commitments. Fall burning lends itself well to this scenario. However, a manager needs to commit to a fire regime (conducting burns every 2 to 6 years, mostly occurring at the same time of year, and rarely incorporating burning in other seasons to address specific needs) rather than viewing each burn as a one-off event (in other words, the effects will build over time).

Bobwhite quail require specific habitat to thrive. Throughout history, we have watched much of that habitat disappear. Woody encroachment and introduced plants are two of the biggest threats to their habitat. Using prescribed fire in the fall can be an excellent tool to mitigate these risks and begin the journey of restoring habitat for quail and other native grassland species. Not sure if prescribed fire is right for you? Reach out to your local [Pheasants Forever or Quail Forever biologist](#) or other natural resource professional for further guidance.

Much of the information here is presented from a perspective of managing resources in Missouri. Details mentioned may be similar for other parts of the country or need modification to best match conditions and accomplish habitat goals elsewhere. Still, Missouri is a diverse state with prairies, woodlands, forests, and swamps. Information and studies that apply to Missouri's landscapes may be applicable to other regions in the country. Here are some resources that can help you learn more about prescribed fire and burning in your area:

[Oak Woodlands and Forest Fire Consortium: Research Briefs](#)

[Oak Woodlands and Forest Fire Consortium: Growing or dormant season burns](#)

[Fire Science Exchange Network](#)

[Missouri Prescribed Fire Council](#)

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Prescribed Fire Coordinating Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wes Buchheit - Missouri

July - September 2023

Training/Meeting	Outcome
MDC Fire Management Level 3 Training	Served as an instructor for the prescribed burn plan development training for MDC and QF staff.
Richmond PBA Interest Meeting	Attendees learned about PBA benefits and functions resulting in the group moving into the PBA formation steps.
Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Conference	Presented on collaborative burning to manage private land and provided an overview and status of Missouri PBAs.
Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council	Presented an overview of the MPFC, Missouri Prescribed Burning Act, and PBAs in Missouri.
MPFC Annual Meeting	Participated in the annual business meeting as a member of the executive committee and presented an update on my position.
MPFC Annual Field Tour	Assisted the field tour in which we toured a Crawford County private property in the heart of the Upper Meramec PBA. Attendees toured woodland and other habitats managed with fire.
Vienna PBA Interest Meeting	Attendees learned about PBA benefits and functions resulting in the group moving into the PBA formation steps.

Conservation Planning

- 33 Landowner Contacts
- 3 Site Visits
- 69.9 Acres Impacted
- 5 Burn Plans Developed/Reviewed
- 7 Workshops/Webinars/Meetings Hosted
- 209 Meeting Attendees



Missouri Prescribed Fire Council

Promoting and protecting the responsible use of prescribed fire - moprescribedfire.org

- Prescribed Burn Associations
- Log Your Burn
- Log Your Burn Data Summaries
- Law & Liability
- Contractor List
- Weather Resources
- Calendar of Events
- Grant Applications
- Contact Us



MissouriPFQF.org

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

July-September 2023

An Evening with Pollinators

On August 8th, the Missouri Dept. of Conservation's (MDC) private lands staff organized a field tour highlighting pollinator habitat and topics surrounding putting pollinator habitat on the ground. Three Montgomery County landowners opened their properties allowing tour participants to see pollinator habitat they have created and maintained over the years.

The tour kicked off by looking at ground enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Both whole field and field border practices were being used. Emily Beck of MFA discussed the use of precision ag technology to identify low yielding portions of crop fields. Using this information producers can identify areas where their inputs may be too high, compared to yields, they might be losing money on those acres. These unprofitable acres are great options for establishing pollinator plots to benefit wildlife. The second stop included savanna and prairie communities that were restored and have been maintained for over a decade. At this stop, the landowner and QF Biologist, Wesley Hanks, highlighted commonly used management practices to maintain diverse pollinator habitat. At the last stop Brady Lichtenberg with the MO Soybean Association highlighted the Biodiversity Credit program they piloted the past couple years. Throughout the tour stops commonly seeded pollinator plants were identified for participants. During dinner Kim Schroeder with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) discussed resources that were available to landowners interested in improving pollinator habitat on their property. She highlighted both the technical assistance and variety of cost-share programs that are out there. This evening event was a great opportunity for landowners to learn about pollinators and their habitat from State, Federal, and Non-Governmental agencies.



Landowners learning about pollinator habitat in Montgomery county.

Photo Credit: MDC Staff

Trainings/Meetings/Outreach	Outcome
ECPBA Fall Meeting	Attended meeting of the ECPBA and provided technical input as needed.
Puetz Farm Tour—Warren County	Presented on the benefits of pollinators and pollinator habitat to 4th grade students from Warren county schools.
FOSA Staff Meeting	Connected with NRCS and MDC staff from Warren, Montgomery, Pike, and Lincoln counties. Learned about updates to NRCS programs and policies.
Montgomery County Pollinator Tour	Presented information to landowners on the importance of pollinator habitat to monarch butterflies.
SAFE CRP Plan Review	Presented to a group of six landowners on the details of their Bobwhite Quail/Monarch SAFE contracts in Montgomery



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners' Report



Wesley Hanks - Franklin, Warren, and Washington

July-September 2023

Marathon Pipeline Surveys

Quail Forever has partnered with Marathon Pipeline to help manage their oil pipeline rights-of-way (ROW). Marathon is interested in better managing their ROWs to benefit pollinators and wildlife. The first step in this process is to assess what is currently in the ROW. In Missouri, Marathon has an oil pipeline that runs from the southwest corner of the state towards the St. Louis region. MO QF Biologists and the Habitat Crew were enlisted to help survey points along the pipeline that fell within their work area. Eighty survey sites were located along the pipeline as it runs through Franklin County. At each survey point, photos were taken, both herbaceous and woody plants within the ROW were identified, and notes were made on the cover adjacent to the ROW. Marathon vegetation management staff will use this information to tailor future management decisions to the site-specific conditions.



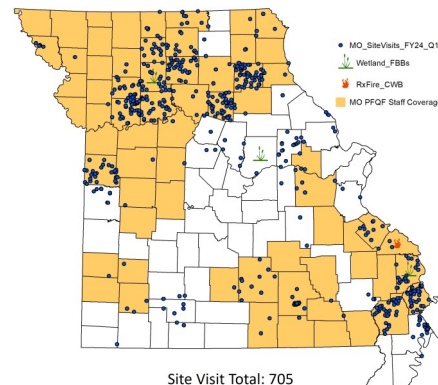
Pollinators on a native thistle in the Marathon Pipeline ROW.

Photo credit: Wesley Hanks

Conservation Planning

- 95 landowner contacts*
 - 79 Site Visits*
 - 21 CRP Plans - 634.4 ac
 - 7 LCAP/HCG Project Plans - 154.8 ac
- * Totals include work completed by QF summer interns

MISSOURI PF/QF
BIOLOGIST FOOTPRINT
July 1, 2023 - Sept 30, 2023



*Site visit entries where coordinate data was captured.
Updated: 10/13/2023



Missouri Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions are funded in partnership cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Assessments and Check Outs	Acres
62 CRP Status Reviews*	1,491*
3 Brush Mgmt. Checkouts	48.8
2 Native Seedings	44.5

Looking Forward

- Develop project plans and cost-share agreements for FY24 LCAP and HCG projects
- Train local Partner and QF Staff on the use of the recently completed pendulum seeder.
- Assist NRCS staff with the assessment and ranking process for recently submitted EQIP applications.
- Through landowner contacts I will continue to share the Quail Forever mission and help get anyone interested involved with their local QF chapter.

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Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

Quarterly Partners' Report



William Robinson– Marion, Monroe & Shelby Counties

July-September 2023

Position Update

In September, I was promoted to a Farm Bill Biologist III. I will continue with my normal duties, as well as supporting the Quail Forever team to the best of my ability.

Every year, CRP is a huge workload for everybody involved. I am happy to report that, once again, it all got done! My current priorities are to write burn plans for producers that are interested in using prescribed fire as a management tool, and to help producers complete site-prep and seeding appropriately for CRP, and other native seedings. The cool weather on the horizon is exciting, and I am looking forward to helping get more habitat on the ground! Thank you for your partnership!

Site Preparation for Native Seedings

One of my favorite parts about this position is working with landowners. In my part of the world, CRP provides the most opportunity for producer involvement. While the majority of CRP plans look the same, every situation is different. A large part of a successful seeding is site preparation. I spent a lot of time in the field with producers that need to renovate existing CRP walking them through some different scenarios, and giving them options, helping them find a plan that would be successful. Talking about the current composition of the field, as well as what equipment they have access to is a large part of the conversation. It is a little extra work, but seeing the end result is always worth it!

Q1 FY24 Activity Highlights

- 130 Landowner Contacts
- 61 Site visits
- 2,503 Acres Impacted
- Presented at CRP meetings in Marion and Ralls county
- Invasive Species ID training for Mississippi Hills Master Naturalist
- MTQF Youth Dove Hunt



Cool season grass after being sprayed to prepare a site for a native seeding.



Invasive Species ID

One of the biggest threats to the remaining grasslands in Missouri is invasive species. Invasive species spread quickly and out compete native species. Many people don't know what they look like, or how to treat them. This July, I had the pleasure of speaking to the Mississippi Hills chapter of the Master Naturalists. The folks in the group all have a passion for the outdoors, and native flora and fauna. They were an excellent group. Many members of the group are already waging war on invasive species locally. Almost everybody had plans to start, or continue fighting against the invasion. I am sure that they will share this knowledge with their friends and family, and continue to fight the good fight to conserve out native ecosystems!



Mark Twain Quail Forever Youth Dove Hunt

For me, the beginning of September marks the start of the fall hunting seasons. This year I got to spend the first weekend of September with volunteers from the Mark Twain Quail Forever Chapter as we hosted a youth Dove hunt. We had a great turn out, and some awesome hunts. Thanks to the Kendrick family for planting a sunflower field and letting us hunt over it, thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for helping make this a successful event, and thanks to all the kids who came out to



Looking Forward

- Burn Plan Writing
- Fall Covey Counts
- Flagging CRP
- Providing CRP Seeding Technical Assistance
- Assist with WLFW ARU Study in Clark and Lewis County



Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist III **USDA**

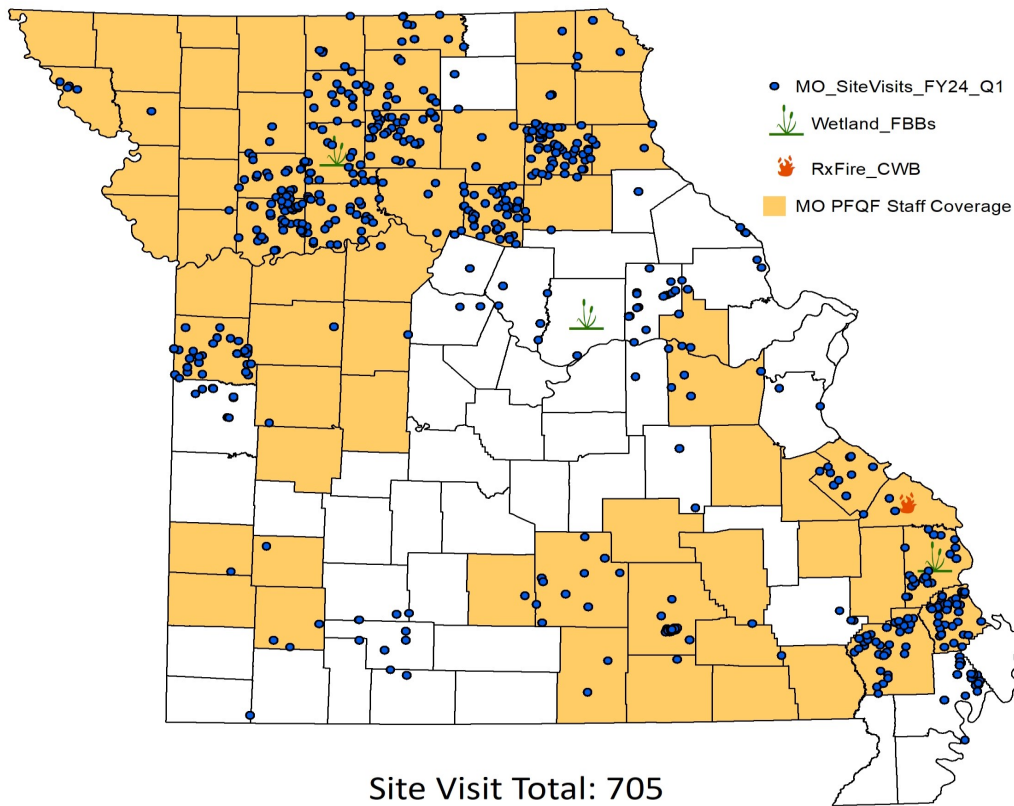
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